

available in their States on the basis of priority under the powers given to them by Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957;

(c) the reasons for which Governments propose to deprive the States of these powers; and

(d) whether Government are prepared to pay 75 per cent Production Linked Payment (PLP) to the States if bidding process is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) In order to make the system of allocation more transparent and objective in the context of increasing number of applications and declining number of coal and lignite blocks.

(b) and (c) Under the existing provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before the State Government can grant mining lease in respect of coal, lignite and other minerals included in the First Schedule of the said Act.

(d) No final view has yet been taken in the matter.

Import of coal

272. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country is having a huge reserve of coal in various places;

(b) if so, the reasons for importing coal;

(c) the details of import of coal including the place from which imported right from the date of assumption of office by UPA Government, year-wise; and

(d) the mechanism to compare in terms of price and quality of coal between the indigenous and that of imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) As per the estimates of Geological Survey of India (GSI), as on 1.1.2007 a total of 255172 million tonnes of geological resources of coal has so far been estimated in India. This comprises

97920 million tonnes of proved, 118992 million tonnes of indicated and 38260 million tonnes as inferred category of coal resources.

(b) and (c) Under the present import policy of the Government, coal is placed under Open General License and can be imported by any person subject to payment of import duties. Various types of coal and coke are imported in the country by and large from Indonesia, South Africa, Australia and China by consumers to supplement the limited indigenous availability of low ash superior grade coking and non-coking coal for use by blending with indigenous coal and also on environmental considerations and considerations of location-specific landed cost of coal. Details of coal import for the last three years are given as under:

(Source: Provisional Coal Statistics: 2005-06 by Col Controllers Quantity in Million Tonnes and Value in Organisatipn, KoKota) Miion Rupees

Year	Coking Coal		Non Coking Coal		Coke		Total (Coal & Coke)	
	Qty	\\$ue	Qty	\\$ue	Qty	\\$ue	Qty	\\$ue
200405	16.925	72432	12.025	30228	2.841	41040	31.791	143700
200506								
(Prov.)	17.114	93398	19.755	49864	2.563	20538	39.432	163800

(d) Comparison of indigenous coal could be made with imported coal in terms of landed energy price, which is the price per unit of energy of coal (Rupees per million Kilo Calories) at a specific location and is worked out in terms of landed price of coal (in Rupees per Tonne) and the Gross Calorific value of coal (in Kilo Calories per Kilogram)

Dedicated coal blocks for Merchant Power Plants

273. SHRIVIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed Merchant Power Plants, planned by the Ministry of energy would have dedicated coal blocks and coal linkage so that the uninterrupted generation of power is maintained;

(b) whether the price of coal blocks, etc. would depend on market forces or a fixed price for a per-determined period would be agreed upon; and